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## Center for non-lethal weapon research open at Brooks

by Rudy Purificato, 311th Human Systems Wing

**BROOKS AFB, Texas** — The Air Force Research Laboratory and the Department of Defense Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program Integrated Product Team, as known as JNLWP-IPT, signed an historic agreement Thursday, June 7 at Brooks Air Force Base. The agreement launched a new era for non-lethal weapons development by the establishment of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Human Effects Center of Excellence, or JNLW-HECOE.

Marine Corps Col. George Fenton, director, Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, on behalf of the chair of the JNLWP-IPT, Lt. Gen. Emil Bedard, deputy commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations; and Brig. Gen. Paul Nielsen, Air Force Research Laboratory commander, signed a Memorandum of Agreement at the Frank M. Tejeda Directed Energy Bioeffects Laboratory where the new Human Effects Center of Excellence is located.

The agreement formalizes a decision made last year by the Marine Corps, as executive agent for non-lethal weapons research that created the JNLW-HECOE within the AFRL. AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate was selected to manage the new human effects center on the strength of its many contributions to non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation research conducted here since 1968.

Since 1994, Tri-Service radio frequency radiation and laser human effects research here has made Brooks AFB the world's largest research center for assessing human effects of directed energy. On-going AFRL non-lethal weapons human effects studies include acoustic, kinetic and TASER® (stun gun) research.

Col. Fenton emphasizes that establishing credible human effects characteristics is the foundation and a core element of the JNLW program, providing value-added to the materiel developers and users in the field.

"This (JNLW-HECOE) is one-of-a-kind in the world. The center will act as the central repository of human effects data, will analyze human effects (research) for non-lethal weapons program managers, and will coordinate human effects modeling and research efforts," said Dr. Michael Murphy, chief of JNLW-HECOE. Murphy's JNLW-HECOE team consists of associate chief Dr. B. Jon Klauenberg and several civilian contractors.



**LAUNCHING OF A NEW ERA** — Air Force Research Laboratory Commander Brig. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen (center) together with Marine Corps Col. George Fenton, director of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate preside over the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Human Effects Center of Excellence. Lt. Col. Dennis M. Scholl, AFRL Human Effectiveness Directorate, Bioeffects branch (pictured left) looks on. (USAF photo by SSgt. Sabrina Johnson)

The center's primary mission is to serve as a DoD resource on human effects data during the entire life cycle of non-lethal weapons development and acquisition. The JNLW-HECOE is tasked to assess both effectiveness and risk of unintended effects for all non-lethal candidate weapon systems.

Murphy, who is also Radio Frequency Radiation Branch chief for AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate, said, "This (center) fits into City Base as Brooks AFB becomes an even broader center for research. I believe this agreement is the foundation for a lot of additional research work."

Besides DoD benefiting from non-lethal weapons human effects research here, other federal agencies potentially could benefit as well including the Justice Department and Department of Transportation, Murphy said. @